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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBOE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SSO-00 SY-05 /021 W
---------- 045810
P 272100Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6880

UNCLAS PANAMA 1440

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, PN
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY REPAIR OF GENERATOR - PROPERTY 01132

REF: GRZYBEK, JBQN - BUFLO TELECON FEBRUARY 27

1. EMERGENCY GENERATOR ORDERED BY EMBASSY AS INSTRUCTED BY FBO FROM ATLANTIC ENGINE POWER, INC., BALTIMORE, INSTALLED LAST WEEK BY ROGERS ELECTRIC CO., CANAL ZONE AND OPERATED FOR ABOUT SIX HOURS. BASED ON SATISFACTORY TEST EMBASSY ARRANGED TO CUT CITY POWER FROM NOON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, UNTIL WEDNESDAY MORNING SO CORPORACION DE ELECTRICIDAD COULD CHANGE ELECTIRC PANELS AS PART OF CONTRACTED ELECTRICAL ALTERATIONS.

2. EMERGENCY GENERATOR WAS STARTED AT NOON ON SATURDAY AND RAN UNTIL 2:00 AM MONDAY AT WHICH TIME IT WAS TURNED OFF BECAUSE OF RAPPING NOISES. AT ABOUT 10:00 AM SAME MORNING EMBASSY CONTACTED THE LOCAL CATERPILLAR REPRESENTATIVE, CARDOZE & LINDO, FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE PROBLEM IT WAS NECESSARY FOR CARDOZE & LINDO TO DISMANTLE THE ENGINE AND REMOVE THE PARTS TO THEIR WORKSHOP. THEY HAVE SINCE ADVISED US THAT THEY FOUND DIRT IN THE COOLING AND OIL SYSTEMS AND IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERATOR WAS NOT RECEIVED IN OPERATIVE CONDITION. ACCORDING TO THEM, THIS DIRT RESULTED IN OVERHEATING WHICH CAUSED THE ENGINE TO BLOW A VALVE, BEND RODS AND BURN THE PISTONS.

3. CARDOZE & LINDO STATE ENGINE MUST BE COMPLETELY CLEANED, OVERHAULED AND DAMAGED PARTS REPLACED. ALTHOUGH THIS MODEL HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED CARDOZE & LINDO BELIEVE NECESSARY PARTS ARE
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AVAILABLE LOCALLY. PRESENT ESTIMATE OF REPAIRS IS $2,000.00

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BUT COULD RUN AS HIGH AS $2,500.00.

4. AS RESULT OF EMERGENCY GENERATOR FAILING POST HAS BEEN TRYING TO OPERATE SINCE EARLY SUNDAY MORNING WITH ANYWHERE FROM NO ELECTRICAL POWER TO VERY LIMITED POWER. THIS LOSS OF ELECTRICITY ALSO AFFECTED OUR TELEPHONE SYSTEM WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER TELEGRAM.

5. EMBASSY EXPECTS TO BE BACK TO FULL CITY POWER BY WEDNESDAY MORNING. HOWEVER, UNTIL THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR IS REPAIRED EMBASSY HAS NO BACKUP SYSTEM AND THE LOSS OF CITY POWER WOULD LEAVE US COMPLETELY INOPERATIVE.
JORDEN

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NNN

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